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United States Senate

RICHARD A. WEGMAN
 CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR

COMMITTEE ON
 GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

May 21, 1976

Honorable George C. Bush
 Director
 Central Intelligence Agency
 Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Director Bush:

The staff of the Senate Government Operations Committee has been directed to conduct a preliminary investigation into the problems associated with the increasing uses of computer technology in the federal government. A Congressional Record reprint of May 10, 1976 is enclosed in which I, as Chairman of the Committee, outlined the general scope of the investigation.

As you will note in my Senate remarks, the General Accounting Office has issued three reports recently on this subject. Each of these reports, in its own way, has pointed to major problem areas in computer operations in federal programs. Moreover, each of these reports raises questions which the Central Intelligence Agency and other Government agencies will be concerned with, particularly in the areas of computer fraud, computer security and automated decision-making computer applications.

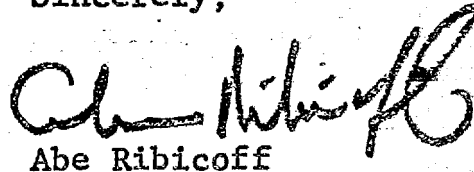
The Senate Government Operations Committee will look forward to assistance from your agency as we examine computer problems in federal programs. Similarly, if the preliminary staff investigation leads to hearings by the Committee, Senators will wish to receive testimony and documentation as to how the Central Intelligence Agency has recognized these problem areas and what steps, if any, you have implemented to safeguard your facilities against possible losses. Also, the Committee is interested in any security happening at your agency and what important security measures and or recovery procedures are in existence for continuity of operation if and when losses occur.

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Philip R. Manuel, an Investigator on the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations detailed to the full Committee, and Fred Asselin, an Investigator on the Committee, have been assigned to arrange a meeting with the appropriate Department officials whom you will wish to designate in your response to this letter.

My own view on this subject is that the problems associated with computer technology in federal programs may well become even more pressing than they are now. For that reason, it is important that the Congress and key executive branch agencies such as yours address this issue now and seek to improve our ability to cope with this problem. Your assistance, then, will be very much appreciated.

Sincerely,



Abe Ribicoff

Enclosure